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#22

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

27 February 1974

YUGOSLAVIA

Slovene Dissatisfaction with Decision-Making Process

Slovene unhappiness with the inter-republic process for agreeing on some key questions of social and economic development is becoming loud and clear. Zagreb radio yesterday carried a summary of a Borba article that indicated the Slovenes are dissatisfied with the slow pace and manner in which agreements are prepared and allegedly feel that "centralist tendencies" are partially to blame. Zagreb radio's attention to this article may also indicate that there is displeasure within the Croat leadership.

This is the first recent indication of dissatisfaction with the process by which the republics coordinate policy decisions. A widespread breakdown in the process could have serious consequences for Yugoslav stability. The difficulties in Croatia in 1971 can, in part, be traced to sharp differences on economic issues at the inter-republic level.

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ROMANIA

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Liberia Added to Ceausescu's Trip Ticket

A "technical" stop for refueling in Liberia on the outbound leg of the Romanian President's trip to Argentina has now blossomed into an "official" visit possibly from March 1 to 4. Romanian officialdom has become expert at padding Ceausescu's itineraries with seemingly insignificant state visits. On the return leg of his journey, Ceausescu will visit Guinea from March 10 to 12. Bucharest has often stressed the need for expanding its relations with developing nations, and Africa has received its share of attention. Last year, Ceausescu made a 27-day tour to Africa during which he visited the Central African Republic, the Congo, Zaire, Tanzania, Zambia, the Sudan, and Egypt.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

POLAND

Warm Welcome for Visiting Firemen

Western politicians sympathetic to the Gierek regime have recently been visiting Warsaw with increasing frequency and have consistently received a royal reception. Even Herbert Mies, head of the tiny West German Communist Party, got red carpet treatment during his tour of February 20-24. One conclusion to draw from these circumstances is that Poland is playing the role of bridge between the ruling parties of the East and the Communist and Socialist parties of the West. In the Mies case, Moscow's interests apparently were directly served when the final communique called for another Karlovy Vary-type gathering of European Communist and progressive parties. By contrasting Mies' views with those of moderate West German politicians, Warsaw was also able to take a few oblique pokes at Bonn's stance in the troubled West German-Polish talks.

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ALBANIA

Well, Tirana Is Half Right

The Albanian radio, like the media in Prague, considers that the Czechoslovak working class "scored a great victory" over the reactionaries in February 1948. It departs from Prague, however, in its interpretation of the events of 1968. A broadcast from Tirana on the 26th anniversary of the "workers' victory" says that "what international imperialism and home reaction were not able to do" in 1948 "was done after 20 years by the Soviet social imperialists," who carried out the "perfidious fascist type aggression against the Czechoslovak people."

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EAST GERMANY

The Cuban Week Is Over

Party Chief Honecker and Premier Sindermann ended their sunny sojourn in Cuba yesterday. They did some business in

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

Cuba, but, as expected, nothing spectacular. The two sides agreed on the "strengthening of friendship and deepening of cooperation." This took the form of agreements on inter-party cooperation, and on cooperation in scientific-technological and cultural-scientific matters and in the building industry.

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